

movement or piece of music. 4. a technically demanding ballet; movement danced by a man and woman or by a mixed trio. [1740-50; < It. for *adagio*: at ease, *agio* < OPr *dis* or OF *aise* (see EASE)]

Ad-am (ad'am), *n.* 1. the first man; husband of Eve and progenitor of the human race. Gen. 2:7, 5:1-5. 2. James, 1730-94; and his brother Robert, 1728-92; English architects and furniture designers. —*adj.* 3. of or designating the style of architecture, decoration, and furniture originated by Robert and James Adam; characterized by freely adapted ancient Roman motifs and delicate ornamentation. —*Idiom.* 4. not know someone from Adam, to be completely unacquainted or unfamiliar with someone. 5. the old Adam, the natural tendency toward sin. —**A-dam-ic** (ə'dam'ik), *adj.* 1. pertaining to Adam. 2. pertaining to the Adam family. —**A-dam-ic** (ə'dam'ik), *adj.* 1. pertaining to Adam. 2. pertaining to the Adam family.

Ad-am-and-Eve, *n.* the first couple. [1780-90]

ad-a-mant (ad'a mant, -mant'), *adj.* 1. utterly unyielding in attitude or opinion; inflexible. 2. hard; adamant. 3. any unyielding hard substance. 4. a legendary stone of impenetrable hardness; formerly, sometimes identified with the diamond. [1350-1400; < OF *adamant* < L *adamantus*, *adamas*: hard metal; diamond < Gk. *adamas*, *adama* (ad'a-man'is) < ad'a-mance, *n.* —**ad-a-mant-ly**, *adv.*]

ad-a-man-tine (ad'a-man'tin, -tin, -tīn), *adj.* 1. utterly unyielding or firm; hard. 2. like a diamond in luster. [1200-1250; ME < L *adamantinus* < Gk *adamanēinos*. See ADAMANTINE]

Ad-ams (ad'amz), *n.* 1. Abigail (Smith), 1744-1818, U.S. social and political figure (wife of John Adams). 2. Ansel, 1902-84, U.S. photographer. 3. Brooks, 1848-1927, U.S. historian (son of Charles Francis). 4. Charles Francis, 1807-86, U.S. statesman (son of John Quincy Adams). 5. Henry (Brooks), 1838-1918, U.S. historian and writer (son of Charles Francis). 6. John, 1735-1826, 2nd president of the U.S. 1797-1801; a leader in the American Revolution. 7. John Quincy, 1767-1848, 6th president of the U.S. 1825-29 (son of John Adams). 8. Samuel, 1722-1803, a leader in the American Revolution. 9. Mount, a mountain in SW Washington; in the Cascade Range. 12,307 ft. (3751 m). 10. Mount, a mountain in N. New Hampshire; in the White Mountains. 5798 ft. (1767 m).

Ad'am's ap'ple, *n.* a projection of the thyroid cartilage at the front of the neck. [1745-55]

Ad'am's-nee (ad'am's nee), *n.* a yucca plant (*Yucca filamentosa*), grown as an ornamental. [1750-60; Amer.]

A-da-na (ad'a-nā), *n.* a city in S. Turkey, on the Seyhan River. 1,047,300. Also called: *Seyhan*.

A-da-pa-za-ri (ad'a-pā-zā-rē), *n.* a city in NW Turkey. 186,000.

ad-apt (ə dapt'), *v.t.* 1. to make suitable to requirements or conditions; adjust or modify fittingly. —*v.i.* 2. to adjust oneself to different conditions; environment, etc. [1605-15; < L *adaptare*, to fit, adjust. See AD-AP-]. —**ad-apt-ed-ness**, *n.* —*Syn.* See ADJUST.

ad-apt-a-ble (ə dapt'ə-bəl), *adj.* 1. capable of being adapted. 2. able to adjust oneself readily to different conditions. *an adaptable person*. [1790-1800] —**ad-apt-a-bil-ity**, *n.*

ad-ap-ta-tion (ad'ap'tā-shən), *n.* 1. the act of adapting or the state of being adapted. 2. something produced by adapting. *an adaptation of a play for television*. 3. a any beneficial alteration in an organism resulting from natural selection by which the organism survives and multiplies in its environment. b. a form or structure modified to fit a changed environment. c. the ability of a species to survive in a particular ecological niche, esp. because of alterations of form or behavior brought about through natural selection. 4. the decrease in response of sensory receptor organs, as those of vision or touch, to changed, constantly applied environmental conditions. 5. the regulating by the pupil of the quantity of light entering the eye. 6. a slow, usu., unconscious modification of individual or collective behavior in adjusting to cultural surroundings. [1600-10; < ML *adaptatio* < L *adaptāre* (to ADAPT)] —**ad-ap-ta-tion-al**, *adj.* —**ad-ap-ta-tion-al-ly**, *adv.*

ad-apt-er or **ad-apt-er** (ə dapt'ər), *n.* 1. one that adapts. 2. a connector for joining parts or devices having different sizes, designs, etc., enabling them to be fitted or to work together. 3. an accessory to convert a machine, tool, or part to a new or modified use. 4. Computers. EXPANSION CARD. [1795-1805]

ad-ap-tive (ə dapt'iv), *adj.* serving or able to adapt; showing or contributing to adaptation. [1815-25] —**ad-ap-tive-ly**, *adv.* —**ad-ap-tive-ness**, *n.* —**ad-ap-tiv-ity** (ad'ap'tiv-ē-tē), *n.*

adap-tive-radia-tion, *n.* the diversification of a group of organisms into separate species or subspecies adapted to different environments, each new group often further diversifying. [1900-05]

A-dar (ə dār'), *n.* the sixth month of the Jewish calendar. —< Heb *adār*.

Adar' She'ni (shā'nē, shā'nē'), *n.* an intercalary month of the Jewish calendar, added between Adar and Nisan; Ve'adār. —< Heb *adār shēni* Adar the Second].

ad-a-str-a-per a-spe-ra (ad'ā'strā per ā'spē-rā; Eng., ad'as'trā per ā'spā-rā), *Latin*, to the stars through difficulties.

ad-ax-il'al (ad'ak'sē-əl), *adj.* Bot. Mycol. situated on the side toward the axis or stem. [1895-1900]

ADC, 1. advanced developing countries. 2. Aid to Dependent Children. 3. Air Defense Command. 4. Also, A.D.C. aide-de-camp.

add (ad'), *v.t.* 1. to unite or join so as to increase the number, quantity, size, or importance. 2. to find the sum of (often fol. by *up*). 3. to say or write further. 4. to cause to have as an additional quality: *to add interest to a story*. 5. to include (usu. fol. by *in*). —*v.i.* 6. to perform the arithmetic operation of addition. 7. to be or serve as an addition (usu. fol. by *to*): *His illness added to the family's troubles*. 8. add up, a. to amount to the correct total. b. to seem reasonable or consistent; make sense. 9. add up to, to signify; amount to. [1325-

75; ME < L *addere* = *ad-* AD- + *-dere* to put (akin to DO)] —**add-a-ble**, *adj.* —**add-ed-ly**, *adv.* —**add-er**, *n.* 1. one who adds. 2. a person who adds. 3. a person who adds. 4. a person who adds. 5. a person who adds. 6. a person who adds. 7. a person who adds. 8. a person who adds. 9. a person who adds. 10. a person who adds. 11. a person who adds. 12. a person who adds. 13. a person who adds. 14. a person who adds. 15. a person who adds. 16. a person who adds. 17. a person who adds. 18. a person who adds. 19. a person who adds. 20. a person who adds. 21. a person who adds. 22. a person who adds. 23. a person who adds. 24. a person who adds. 25. a person who adds. 26. a person who adds. 27. a person who adds. 28. a person who adds. 29. a person who adds. 30. a person who adds. 31. a person who adds. 32. a person who adds. 33. a person who adds. 34. a person who adds. 35. a person who adds. 36. a person who adds. 37. a person who adds. 38. a person who adds. 39. a person 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confide to conformity

to whom secrets are confided or with whom private matters and problems are discussed. [1700-10; < F. *confidante*].

con-fide (kan fid'), *v.*, *-fid-ed*, *-fid-ing*. —*v.t.* 1. to discuss private matters or problems (usu. fol. by *in*). 2. to have full trust; have faith. —*v.i.* 3. to tell in assurance of secrecy. 4. to entrust to the charge or knowledge of another. [1625-35; < L. *confidere* = *con-* + *fidere* to trust; akin to *foedus*]. —*con-fid'er*, *n.*

con-fi-dence (kon'fi dāns), *n.* 1. belief in the powers, trustworthiness, or reliability of a person or thing; trust; reliance. 2. belief in oneself and one's powers or abilities; self-confidence. 3. certitude; assurance. 4. to speak with confidence of a fact. 5. a confidential communication; to exchange confidences. 6. (esp. in European politics) the wish to retain an incumbent government in office, as shown by a vote on a particular issue. 7. presumption; impudence. —*Idiom*. 7. in confidence, as a secret or private matter not to be divulged. [1350-1400; ME. < MF. < L. —*Syn.* CONFIDENCE; ASSURANCE; both imply a faith in oneself. CONFIDENCE, usu. implies a firm belief in oneself without a display of arrogance or conceit: *His friends admired his confidence at the party.* ASSURANCE implies even more sureness of one's own abilities, often to the point of offensive boastfulness: *She spoke with assurance but lacked the qualifications for the job.*

confidence game, *n.* a swindle in which the swindler, after gaining the victim's confidence, robs the victim by cheating at a gambling game, appropriating funds entrusted for investment, or the like. Also called *Brit.*, *confidence trick*. [1855-60; Amer.]

confidence man, *n.* a person who swindles others by means of a confidence game; swindler. [1840-50; Amer.]

con-fi-dent (kon'fi dānt), *adj.* 1. having strong belief or full assurance; sure: *confident of success*. 2. sure of oneself and one's abilities; correctness, or likelihood of success; self-confident; assured. 3. excessively bold. 4. Obs. trustful. [1570-80; < L. *confident*, *s.* of *confidens*, *pp.* of *confidere*]. —*con-fi-dent-ly*, *adv.*

con-fi-den-tial (kon'fi den'shāl), *adj.* 1. spoken, written, or acted on in strict confidence; secret; private. 2. indicating confidence or intimacy; imparting private matters; a confidential tone of voice. 3. entrusted with secrets or private affairs; a confidential secretary. 4. designating the category of security classification below secret, or a document so designated. [1645-55]. —*con-fi-den-tial-ly*, *adv.* —*Syn.* CONFIDENTIAL; CONFIDENTIALNESS; *con-fi-den-tial-ly*, *adv.* —*Syn.* CONFIDENTIAL.

con-fid-ing (kan'fid ing), *adj.* trustful; credulous or unsuspicious. [1635-45]. —*con-fid-ing-ly*, *adv.* —*con-fid-ing-ness*, *n.*

con-fig-u-ra-tion (kan'fig yā' rā'shən), *n.* 1. the relative disposition or arrangement of the parts or elements of a thing. 2. external form, as resulting from this. 3. an atomic, spatial arrangement that is fixed by the chemical bonding in a molecule and that cannot be altered without breaking bonds (contrasted with *conformation*). 4. a computer plus the equipment connected to it. 5. the act of configuring a computer system. 6. CELESTIAL. [1550-60; < LL. *configuratio* comparison of *configuratio* (re) to compare (L. to mold; see *CON-FIGURE*)] —*con-fig-u-ra-tion-al*, *con-fig-u-ra-tive* (yā' rā'shən), *adj.*

con-fig-ure (kan'fig yā'), *v.t.*, *-ured*, *-ur-ing*. 1. to put together or arrange the parts of in a specific way or for a specific purpose; form into a configuration. 2. Computers. to put (a computer system) together by supplying a specific computer with appropriate peripheral devices, as a monitor and disk drive, and connecting them. [1650-60]

con-fine (kan'fin'), *v.* 1. to enclose within bounds; limit or restrict: *Confine your remarks to the subject at hand.* 2. to shut or keep in; prevent from leaving a place because of imprisonment, illness, discipline, etc. —*n.* 3. Use. a. a boundary or bound; limit; border. 4. Often, confines, region; territory. 5. Archaic. CONFINEMENT. 6. Obs. a place of confinement; prison. [1350-1400; (n.) ME. < MF. *confines*, *confines* < ML. *confinita*, *pl.* of *confinitis*; boundary (see *CON-FINE*); (v.) < MF. *confiner*, *v.* der. of *confins*. < L. —*con-fin-a-ble*, *con-fine-a-ble*, *adj.*

con-fined (kan'fin d'), *adj.* 1. limited or restricted. 2. kept from leaving a place by illness, imprisonment, etc. 3. being in childbirth; being in parturition. —*con-fin-ed-ly*, *adv.* —*con-fin-ed-ness*, *n.*

con-fine-ment (kan'fin'mənt), *n.* 1. the act of confining. 2. the state of being confined. 3. the lying-in of a woman in childbirth; childbirth. [1640-50]

con-firm (kan'fɜrm'), *v.t.* 1. to establish the truth, accuracy, validity, or genuineness of; corroborate; verify: *confirm one's suspicions*. 2. to acknowledge with definite assurance; make certain or definite: *to confirm a reservation*. 3. to make valid or binding by some formal or legal act; sanction; ratify. 4. to make firm or firmer; add strength to. 5. to strengthen (a person) in habit, resolution, opinion, etc. 6. to administer the rite of confirmation to. [1250-1300; ME. *confirmen*. < OF. *confirmen*. < L. *confirmare* to strengthen; see *CON-FIRM*] —*con-firm-a-ble*, *adj.* —*con-firm-a-bil-ity*, *n.*

con-firm-a-tion (kon'fɜrm ə'shən), *n.* 1. the act of confirming. 2. the state of being confirmed. 3. something that confirms, as a corroborative statement or piece of evidence. 4. a Christian rite administered to baptized persons, regarded as a sacrament endowing gifts of the Holy Spirit or as a ceremony of admission to full communion with a church. 5. a ceremony among Reform and some Conservative Jews in which a young person is formally admitted as an adult member of the community. [1275-1325; ME. < L. —*con-firm-a-tion-al*, *adj.*

con-firm-a-to-ry (kan'fɜrm ə'tōrē, -tōr'ē), *adj.* also *con-firm-a-tive*, *adj.* serving to confirm; corroborative. [1630-40; < ML.]

con-firmed (kan'fɜrm d'), *adj.* 1. made certain as to truth, accuracy, validity, etc. 2. settled; ratified. 3. firmly established in a habit or condition; inveterate: *a confirmed bachelor*. 4. given additional determination;

made resolute. 5. having received the religious rite of conf. [1350-1400]. —*con-firm-ed-ly*, *adv.* —*con-firm-ed-ness*, *n.*

con-fis-ca-ble (kan'fis/kə bəl; kon'fə'skə bəl), *adj.* liable to be confiscated. [1720-30]

con-fis-cate (kon'fə skāt, kan'fis/kāt), *v.*, *-cat-ed*, *-cat-ing*. —*v.t.* 1. to seize as forfeited to the public domain; appropriate way of penalty, for public use. 2. to seize by or as if by authority; appropriate summarily. —*adj.* 3. seized. [1525-35; < L. *confiscare* to confiscate; to seize for the public treasury] —*con-fis-cat-ed*, *con-fis-ca-tion*, *n.* —*con-fis-ca-tor*, *n.*

con-fis-ca-to-ry (kan'fis/kə tōr'ē, -tōr'ē), *adj.* characterized by, or resulting in, confiscation. [1790-1800]

con-fit (kən'fē, kōn'), *n.* duck, goose, or pork that is salted slowly in fat, and preserved by storing in the fat. [< F. see *CON-FIT-ÉOR*] —*con-fit-éor* (kən'fē ē ōr'), *n.* a prayer in the form of a confession said esp. at the beginning of the Roman Catholic mass. [1200; ME. after first word of Latin prayer: I confess].

con-fi-ture (kon'fi chōr'), *n.* a confection; esp. a fruit preserve. [1350-1400; ME. < MF. See *CON-FIT*; URE] —*con-fi-ture*, *n.*

con-fla-grant (kon'flā grānt), *adj.* burning; on fire. [1650-60]

con-fla-gra-tion (kon'flā grā'shən), *n.* a destructive fire; extensive one. [1545-55; < L. *conflagrātio* = *conflagrā(re)* to burn; *con-flāte* (kan'flāt), *v.t.*, *-flāt-ed*, *-flāt-ing*. to fuse into; to merge; combine. [1600-10; < L. *conflare* to blow on, melt down]

con-fla-tion (kan'flā'shən), *n.* 1. the process or result of items into one entity; fusion; amalgamation. 2. a text formed by joining two variant texts. [1400-50; late ME. < LL.]

con-flict (v. kən'flikt; n. kōn'flikt), *v.t.* 1. to be contradictory, or in opposition; clash; disagree. 2. to fight or contend. —*n.* 3. a fight; battle; or struggle; esp. a prolonged one; controversy; quarrel. 5. antagonism of opposition, as interests or principles: *a conflict of opinions*. 6. discord of action, or effect. 7. incompatibility or interference, as of one idea or activity with another: *a conflict in the schedule*. 8. a mental struggle arising from opposing demands or impulses. 9. a striking collision. [1375-1425; late ME. < L. *conflictus* collision; *con-* to strike together, contend (*con-* + *figere* to strike) + *fl-* of *v.* action] —*con-flict-ion*, *n.* —*con-flict-ive*, *con-flic-tory* (tōrē), *adj.*

con-flict-ed (kən'flikt ed), *adj.* full of conflicting emotions. [1650-60]

con-flict-ing (kən'flikt ing), *adj.* being in conflict or disagreement; incompatible: *conflicting views*. [1600-10] —*con-flict-ing-ly*, *adv.*

con-flict of in-ter-est, *n.* the circumstance of a public official, corporate officer, etc., whose personal interests might benefit or her official actions or influence. [1950-55]

con-flu-ence (kon'flō əns), *n.* 1. a flowing together of two streams, rivers, etc. 2. their place of junction. 3. a body of formed by confluence. 4. a coming together of people or things. —*course*. 5. a crowd or throng; assemblage. Sometimes, *(-fluks)*. [1375-1425; late ME. < MF. < LL.]

con-flu-ent (kon'flō ənt), *adj.* 1. flowing on, running, or blending into one: *confluent rivers*; *confluent ideas*. 2. characterized by confluent effluences: *confluent smallpox*. —*n.* 3. a stream. 4. a tributary stream. [1425-75; < MF. < L. *confluens*, *pp.* of *confluere* to flow together]

con-focal (kon'fō kəl), *adj.* having the same focus or focal point. —*con-focal-ly*, *adv.*

con-form (kan'fɜrm'), *v.t.* 1. to act in accordance or harmony with; (usu. fol. by *to*) *conform to rules*. 2. to act in accord with prevailing standards, attitudes, practices, etc. of society or a group. 3. to be or become similar in form, nature, or character. 4. to be in accord. 5. to comply with the usages of an ecclesiastical church, esp. the Church of England. —*v.i.* 6. to make similar in nature, or character. 7. to bring into agreement, correspondence, harmony. —*adj.* 8. Archaic. conformable. [1275-1325; < AF. *former*, < L. *conformare* to shape] —*con-form'er*, *n.*

con-form-a-ble (kan'fɜrm ə bəl), *adj.* 1. corresponding in nature, or character; similar. 2. compliant; obedient; submissive; or pertaining to an unbroken sequence of geologic strata characteristic of uninterrupted deposition. [1425-75]

con-for-mal (kan'fɜrm əl), *adj.* of or designating a map or map projection in which angles and scale are preserved. [1640-50; *conformalis* of the same shape. See *CON-FORMAL*]

con-form-ance (kan'fɜrm əns), *n.* conformity. [1600-10]

con-for-ma-tion (kon'fɜrm ə'shən), *n.* 1. structure; form; physical entity. 2. symmetrical arrangement of parts. 3. the process of conforming; adaptation. 4. the state of being conformed; an atomic spatial arrangement that results from rotation of atoms about single bonds within an organic molecule (contrast *conformation*). [1505-15; < LL.] —*con-for-ma-tion-al*, *adj.*

con-form-ist (kan'fɜrm ist), *n.* 1. a person who conforms, questioning, to the usual practices or standards of a group, etc. 2. (often cap.) a person who conforms to the usages of a church, esp. the Church of England. —*adj.* 3. of or characterized by conforming; esp. in action or appearance. [1625-35]

con-form-ism (kan'fɜrm izm), *n.* 1. action in accord with prevailing social standards; attitudes; practices; etc. 2. conformity in form, nature, or character; agreement; congruity. 3. compliance; acquiescence; obedience. 4. the relationship between adjacent conformable geologic strata. Compare *UNCONFORMITY* (def. 2). [1650-60]